

## ABSTRACT

This invention provides a novel image correcting technique for automatically carrying out a suitable image correction. An image processing program of the invention includes a correction front-end unit for carrying out a color balance correction, a range correction, a main portion estimation processing, and a tone correction, a statistical information calculation unit for generating a color saturation reference value and a contour reference value as data expressing the preference of an operator by using an output of the correction front-end unit and a manually corrected image, and a correction back-end unit for carrying out a color saturation correction processing using the color saturation reference value stored in a reference value DB and a contour emphasis processing using the contour reference value. A processing result of the correction back-end unit is stored as an output image into an image storage DB.